

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE**

CHARLES E. DENNIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

**DOCTOR NINER, GARY BLAIR, and
JOSIE WEST,**

Defendants.

**No.: 3:15-cv-00482
REEVES/GUYTON**

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This is a pro se prisoner's civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On March 7, 2018, the Court entered an order requiring that Plaintiff show cause as to why this matter should not be dismissed for want of prosecution within fifteen days of entry of that order [Doc. 9]. More than fifteen days have passed and Plaintiff has not responded to the order. Further, the United States Postal Service returned the mail containing this order to the Court as undeliverable with a notation indicating that Plaintiff has been released from the Tennessee Department of Correction [Doc. 10 p. 4]. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth below, this matter will be **DISMISSED** due to Plaintiff's failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the Court's orders.

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure gives this Court the authority to dismiss a case for "failure of the plaintiff to prosecute or to comply with these rules or any order of the court." *See, e.g., Nye Capital Appreciation Partners, L.L.C. v. Nemchik*, 483 F. App'x 1, 9 (6th Cir. 2012); *Knoll v. Am. Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 176 F.3d 359, 362-63 (6th Cir. 1999). The Court considers four factors when considering dismissal under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b):

(1) whether the party's failure is due to willfulness, bad faith, or fault; (2) whether the adversary was prejudiced by the dismissed party's conduct; (3) whether the dismissed party was warned that

failure to cooperate could lead to dismissal; and (4) whether less drastic sanctions were imposed or considered before dismissal was ordered.

Wu v. T.W. Wang, Inc., 420 F.3d 641, 643 (6th Cir. 2005); *see Reg'l Refuse Sys., Inc. v. Inland Reclamation Co.*, 842 F.2d 150, 155 (6th Cir. 1988).

As to the first factor, the Court finds that Plaintiff's failure to respond to or comply with the Court's previous order is due to Plaintiff's willfulness and/or fault. Specifically, it appears that Plaintiff failed to comply with the Court's order because he failed to update his address and/or monitor this action as required by this Court's Local Rule 83.13.

As to the second factor, the Court finds that Defendants have not been prejudiced by Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's order.

As to the third factor, the Court warned Plaintiff that the Court may dismiss this case if he did not update his address with the Court [Doc. 3 p. 2]. The Court also warned Plaintiff that the action would be dismissed if he failed to comply with the Court's order [Doc. 9 p. 1].

Finally, as to the fourth factor, the Court finds that alternative sanctions would not be effective. Plaintiff was a prisoner who was granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action [Doc. 3] and Plaintiff has not pursued this action since filing notices of change of address [Docs. 8 and 9] approximately a year and a half ago.

For the reasons set forth above, the Court concludes that the relevant factors weigh in favor of dismissal of Plaintiff's action without prejudice pursuant to Rule 41(b). *White v. City of Grand Rapids*, No. 01-229234, 34 F. App'x 210, 211, 2002 WL 926998, at *1 (6th Cir. May 7, 2002) (finding that a pro se prisoner's complaint "was subject to dismissal for want of prosecution because he failed to keep the district court apprised of his current address"); *Jourdan v. Jabe*, 951 F.2d 108 (6th Cir. 1991).

The Court **CERTIFIES** that any appeal from this action would not be taken in good faith and would be totally frivolous. Fed. R. App. P. 24.

AN APPROPRIATE ORDER WILL ENTER.

ENTER:


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE